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SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL ADDRESS
AND
REPORT
TO THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

BY
A. S. HALLIDIE, ESQ.

PRESIDENT,

Delivered at their Rooms, June 1st, 1872.

SAN FRANCISCO:

B. F. STERETT, STEAM BOOK, JOB AND POSTER PRINTER,

No. 532 Clay Street, opposite Leidesdorff.

1872.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1872.

SAN FRANCISCO:

B. F. STERETT, STEAM BOOK, JOB AND POSTER PRINTER,

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute :

GENTLEMEN,—Herewith I have the honor to present my report for the year ending June 1, 1872, of affairs connected with the Mechanics' Institute.

At the date of my last report, one year ago, the liabilities of the Society were (\$41,182 78, less cash on hand, \$1,169 30) \$40,013 48, the largest item of which was \$37,000, balance due Union Insurance Company, as security for which they held a mortgage on the property of the Society. I am happy to state that this amount has been reduced \$32,000 by the transactions of the year, so that there is owing but \$5,000 on account of that long-standing debt. This has been further reduced by subscriptions for life memberships amounting to \$2,000, part of which amount is paid in and part contingent upon obtaining sufficient to clear off the whole remaining balance. I need not urge the importance of clearing off this small balance ; I have presented it so often that the repetition becomes wearisome, but I earnestly ask your co-operation and efforts to this end. Surely, among so many members in a society like the Mechanics' Institute, sixty more life members can be obtained ; this would then entirely remove the old score, and the Society would stand clear of all indebtedness.

I do not think that your Society values a life membership sufficiently high ; very few societies in this city issue life membership certificates for less than one hundred dollars, and I see no good reason why the Mechanics' Institute with all its inducements should place the life membership fee at so low a figure as fifty dollars ; the argument that many could not afford one hundred dollars is not a good one ; my own observation in this matter satisfies me that all those who have paid the fifty dollars could

have equally as well afforded to pay one hundred. I hope this will receive your attention.

On account of the rapid increase of the size of your library, it has been necessary to provide more room for the books; the accumulation of valuable works of reference, such as the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of Great Britain, the Transactions of the Smithsonian and the Franklin Institutes, the Reports of the leading Scientific Societies of the United States and Great Britain, the Complete Indices of the British Patent Office, the Official Specification of Patents issued weekly by the Patent Office Department at Washington, and very many other valuable works, made it necessary to separate these works and place them in a room by themselves—a Library of Reference; this has been done and the late Reading room, having the advantage of large sliding doors of communication with the main Library, was used for this purpose. The Chess room, which was both small and uncomfortable, has been removed to a large room on the sunny side of the third floor; and the Reading room has been transferred to the west side of the second floor, the various partitions having been removed, this room is now a large and cheerful Reading room. Visitors will be able to form a better idea of the extent and value of our Library under the present arrangement, while at the same time it will give room for expansion.

A large number of models have just been received from the Patent Office and will probably be placed in the Reference Library for inspection.

It is also the expectation that the accumulation of minerals, fossils, shells, and curiosities, can be placed in there also.

It would require but little effort on the part of the members of Mechanics' Institute to gather a valuable mineralogical collection; many, knowing that the Institute desires specimens, would send cheerfully, while others would contribute on being solicited to do so, so that in time when there was a sufficient accumulation a careful classification would be made, and from the surplus exchanges could be effected with other bodies, and your society would have a creditable collection. You possess to-day sufficient to start with, and I would respectfully suggest that the start be made.

The models referred to, and coming from the Patent Office, after being placed in position and classified, will admit of other

models being added, and as California is full of inventive genius, I doubt not, many valuable models will be contributed, but a committee of the Trustees should qualify the kind of models to be received, so that the value of the collection could be sustained and increased.

During the past year changes have occurred in the occupancy of the rooms, and some of the tenants having left, others were substituted. As before stated, more room was needed for the uses of the Society, and in order to bring this about, different arrangements had to be made with the tenants; at this date all the available portion of the building is occupied, and although the Society occupies a large room on the third floor for a Chess room, and a front room on second floor for Committee room, in addition to what was previously occupied, it is at a cost of but twenty-five dollars per month.

The Patent Office Department has designated the Mechanics' Institute as the official place of deposit for the certified copies of the Specifications and Drawings of Patents issued by the United States; these volumes are issued weekly and are received in evidence by the United States Courts in patent cases, and can be consulted by any one desiring to do so, on application to the Librarian between the hours of 9 A. M. and 10 P. M.

During the past three months the Library has been open to members on Sundays from 2 until 10 P. M. I believe that all libraries should be open on Sunday, many who visit worse places for lack of better would go there, but so far the attendance has not been good and unless it becomes more popular among members it will be a question whether the trustees will be justified in continuing the practice.

The Trustees during the past year have been considering a plan to establish a school of design, but as the Art Association of this city have matured a scheme to cover in part the same ground, it was thought best not to hamper the action of that body by interfering in any way with its prospects of success, and for the time this has been abandoned.

There is no question in my mind as to the necessity of offering facilities to all those who can be induced to take up the practical facts of life for a living, that is, there should be opportunity furnished to young men and women to study the arts, sciences and industries in a practical way, so that with little or no pecuniary cost to themselves and in most cases following the bent of their

inclination, or being guided by the condition of their lives they can learn that which will enable them to fight the battles of life by honestly earning their bread.

Now most young men can if they will, or their parents will it, learn a trade and become machinists, blacksmiths, carpenters or what not, but with young women it is otherwise; they cannot be expected to become either of the above trades, but what should prevent them becoming compositors, draftsmen or women, designers or may be architects, photographers, etc.; certainly nothing should prevent this and nothing does, save the absence, first of the proper means of tuition; second, a proper public sentiment respecting this.

I can see no good reason why equal facilities and opportunities in all which relates to technical and industrial education should not be given to women as to men, but the public sentiment of San Francisco is not favorable to industrial education, however it may stand effected towards technical; it is neither fashionable nor popular to have boys and girls learn trades, nor do parents or guardians tolerate it even from a sense of duty. It is as true as unfortunate that in the city of San Francisco this is so: unless the young people of this city are taught trades what will become of its manufactures, and if its manufactures are lost how can a controlling population be supported on commerce simply of exchange? These are subjects of serious thought for its citizens, who should consider how far each one may be responsible for the general result.

The nomadic artizan to whom one place is as good as another and who lacking all the family ties or boyish associations belonging to one growing up in the city, naturally and properly seeks the place that (temporarily) offers him the highest remuneration for his services and skill, while on the other hand our young citizens take a pride in this city, and if he is fortunate in having learned and the community fortunate in having him taught a trade, he can and will by the natural condition of his surroundings, foster, cherish and elevate that trade for his own sake and for the sake of the art.

No line of argument will convince weak ambitious parents that their youngsters should be educated for the industries of life rather than for its amenities; the former may become the latter, but the positions are rarely reversed.

The city and state is becoming full of Lawyers and Doctors and

others who ape the professional, men who are educated to-day as Civil Engineers whose knowledge rarely extend beyond the drawing board and theories; and why is this? It is because a weak maudlin sentiment condemns the dirty hand of industrial labor and compels the growing youths of this city to live on their wits rather than their talents.

Where is our boasted individual independance when we permit society to dictate such terms to us? And when to-day we see the sons of reigning German and other Princes serving apprenticeship to artizans, and becoming worthy mechanics—is this not rebuke enough, or do our citizens prefer to wait until disaster overtakes them from the effeteness of the generation to follow?

During the past winter a course of lectures were delivered by the State University Professors in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, before what was called the College of Mechanic Arts; these lectures were well attended, being the second course and have awakened a marked interest in the subjects treated; which however were only general and while answering the purpose for which they were intended, should, I think, next winter give way to lectures on special subjects; but as lectures on special subjects would necessitate a lecture at least every other evening, while the attendance would be proportionately smaller, it would scarcely come within the ability of the Professors of the State University to devote the time necessary, hence the aid of other teachers would have to be called in.

I cannot help but think that the State University should be more practical in its teachings and should provide more energetically for the immediate tuition in practical or experimental branches of mining, agriculture and the mechanic arts, and that these subjects of so much importance to California should not be so entirely overshadowed by the College of Letters; moreover I am still firm in the conviction that the proper place for the State University is San Francisco. I see but little hope of its partaking of anything near the character of an Industrial University if entirely located so far from the metropolis as Berkeley.

I have often asked myself the question what has been done during the last ten years by the people or government of this State for the industrial classes, and the answer is, save in one instance, absolutely nothing; it seems that everything is tending to vast concentration; operations that were hailed as blessings become grinding monopolies; laws that were passed for benefits

turn into evils, and all seem to result in a discrimination as against the laboring classes; it is too true also that under the influence of designing political leaders the masses rush forward to the support of the politician and condemnation of themselves.

Horace Hawes whose early life was a series of bitter experience in the trials of poverty and struggles against adversity and ignorance, many years ago with the recollection of the disadvantages he had labored under fresh in his mind, and with the prospect of wealth and prosperity fairly dawning on him, matured a plan for the amelioration of the condition of the industrial classes, intending, if it should ever be his fortune to be able, to found an institution having that for its aim, and to this end a number of months before his death he bequeathed to the Industrial Classes of San Francisco by trust deed a block of land in the heart of this city, and I cannot do better than copy his instructions in relation thereto; he says: "First and foremost the object of said Institution must be confined and steadily directed to the object and result hereinbefore precisely expressed, which are not directly to relieve want but to prevent it and to ameliorate the condition of those who exist by manual labor.

"Second, it shall be a leading object of the Institution without compensation or reward to seek useful employment for all who seek it and to encourage and to invite to industry all who are prone to be idle or indolent and to these ends its special effort shall be directed.

"Third, the effort of the Institution shall likewise be directed to procure that all shall be instructed and trained from childhood to some suitable occupation whereby they can obtain an honest living.

"Fourth, systematic provision shall be made by said Institution gratuitously to instruct and inform the laboring class in the best plans and modes of construction for their dwellings, barns, stables, shops and their buildings, so as to render them most healthful and convenient at the least practicable expense, and in all things else as far as practicable how their labor can be economized and most effectively applied; and so without lessening the industry, lighten the toils and increase the health, comfort and happiness of all classes of laboring men and women.

"Fifth, in said Institution shall be collected and preserved the most extensive and minute statistics and information respecting every branch of industry, and the information thus collected shall be gratuitously imparted in all time and to all persons.

"To facilitate the operations of said Institution it shall have established as need and occasion require, appropriate and convenient apartments, bureaus and offices, and an assembly chamber of sufficient capacity in which information and instruction shall be regularly disseminated by means of public addresses and lectures, and for the same purpose it is also contemplated that publications will be issued by the Institution."

In pursuance of the objects of the donor, the Trustees of the Chamber of Industry have graded the block of land in their possession and bounded by Ninth, Tenth, Harrison and Bryant streets, and will in due time carry out the provisions of the trust.

I believe that this is the only tangible and substantial gift in aid of the Industrial Class yet made in this state, and it is to be hoped it may be followed by others.

Your Society has done well and is doing a good work, but unassisted by pecuniary aid its work must necessarily be that of time.

A grand Universal Exhibition will be held in Vienna opening 1 May, 1873, and closing 31 October same year. The Austrian Government earnestly invite the co-operation of the United States and as this will be the exhibition of that year, I take this opportunity of drawing your attention to it.

In regard to the future Industrial Exhibition of this Society, your Trustees have had the matter under consideration at various times, they are unanimously of the opinion that a permanent exhibition site should be procured and a building of sufficient capacity erected thereon, and although many plans have been suggested, yet there have been none which satisfy the requirements of your Society.

Under no consideration should the Mechanics' Institute involve itself in any pecuniary obligation. While these Industrial Fairs have been of benefit to your Society, it has been so only through great sacrifices of part of its officers, and the benefits derived by the Society are but small compared to the benefits accrued to the city.

Efforts should be made to raise by subscription or some similar means, sufficient to purchase the lands necessary.

A number of gentlemen have indicated their willingness to contribute to this object, and although I fear it will be uphill work it can with proper effort be accomplished. In order to hold a Fair in the fall of 1874, the preliminary steps should be taken as soon as the plans of operation are determined on.

Meantime in order to continue the purchasing of technical works suitable for your Library, some means should be adopted to raise a special revenue; large acquisitions have been made to the Library department within the past three years, and that ratio of increase cannot be continued solely from your regular revenue.

During the past year there have been added to your Library 1916 volumes, classified as follows.

Science and Art.....	726	Poetry and Drama.....	40
Fiction.....	607	Travels.....	73
Reports.....	19	Law and Political Economy.....	27
Essays and General Literature...	143	Wit and Humor.....	16
Biography.....	80	Encyclopedia and Dictionary....	10
History.....	59	Bound Periodicals.....	83
Sundries.....			33

This would give you a total of 18,923 volumes by adding to the previous count; as this does not allow for losses from various causes, an actual count has been had and there is at this date, in good order, 17,239 volumes belonging to your Society, showing a loss from various causes from the establishment of the Library 1,684 volumes.

The number of members who have joined during the past year is 375 and your membership roll now contains 1,221 names.

The financial statement of the Society, for the year ending May 31, 1872, is as follows:

Institute Fund.

RECEIPTS.		
Balance May 31, 1871.....	\$ 330 10	
Rents.....	6,833 50	
Dues—membership, etc.....	5,952 64	
Pavilion Fund.....	1,728 09	
Total Receipts.....	\$14,844 33	
DISBURSEMENTS.		
Insurance.....	\$ 655 25	
Interest.....	416 62	
Books.....	3,114 00	
Newspapers.....	771 33	
Advertising.....	199 50	
Furniture and Supplies.....	420 38	
Petty cash, books, stationery, etc.....	973 90	
Water.....	198 00	
Gas.....	512 05	
Improvements and repairs.....	1,417 00	
Printing.....	157 00	
Book-binding.....	607 75	
Sinking Fund.....	1,456 39	
Salaries.....	4,160 00	
Sundries.....	105 00	
	15,164 17	
Due Treasurer, May 31.....	319 84	
	\$14,884 33	

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

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Sinking Fund.

RECEIPTS.		
Balance on hand, May 31, 1871.....	\$1,364 50	
10 per cent. of receipts for the year.....	1,456 39	
	\$2,820 89	
DISBURSEMENTS.		
City and County personal taxes, 1870-71.....	\$ 356 40	
City and County real estate taxes, 1870-71.....	858 33	
	1,214 73	
Balance in Treasury, 31st May, 1872.....	\$ 1,606 16	

Pavilion Account.

RECEIPTS.		
Balance, May 31, 1871.....	\$ 115 12	
Rent from Montgomery Avenue League.....	30 00	
Sale of old lumber, etc.....	10 88	
Sale of boiler, fixtures, building, etc.....	3,824 23	
W. N. Hawley—rent of Pavilion.....	760 00	
Balance transferred from Carnival Ball.....	1,352 73	
Balance transferred from Eighth Industrial Fair.....	11,415 93	
H. P. Herrick, on account sale of building.....	1,171 00	
J. K. Prior, for gas pipe.....	1,100 00	
Looking glass.....	4 00	
Shields.....	47 00	
Advertising in Fair Report.....	772 00	
Sale of shafting.....	161 07	
	\$20,753 96	
DISBURSEMENTS.		
Salary of janitor, 2 mos., \$150; sundries, \$6.....	\$ 156 00	
Amount paid Chicago Relief.....	1,000 00	
Compiling and correcting Fair Reports.....	190 00	
Printing, lithographing, and binding, do.....	1,344 70	
Discount on \$10,000, silver.....	150 00	
Salary of Gas Superintendent at Fair.....	80 50	
Medals—Hubash & Kutz.....	9 25	
Book-keeper at Fair.....	50 00	
Advertising and printing.....	186 25	
Janitors—petty cash at Fair.....	6 00	
Engrossing Diplomas.....	22 60	
J. K. Prior, unsettled bill of 1869.....	42 24	
B. Quaritch, London, for books.....	388 33	
Union Insurance Company, on account mortgage.....	15,000 00	
City and County, for fencing and grading Union Square,	400 00	
Transferred to Institute to balance.....	1,728 09	
	\$20,753 96	

The assets and liabilities of the Society are as follows:

ASSETS.		
Lot and building on Post street.....	115,000 00	
Library.....	23,500 00	
Fixtures and furniture.....	6,000 00	
Cash on hand in Sinking Fund.....	1,606 16	
Cash in hand of Librarian.....	122 65	
Dues unpaid and collectable.....	400 00	
	\$146,628 81	

Brought forward, \$146,628 81

LIABILITIES.

Balance due on mortgage.....	5,000 00	
Due Treasurer—cash advanced.....	319 84	
Bills audited, but not paid.....	759 44	
Bills not audited—salaries for May	345 00	
		6,424 28
Net assets.....	\$140,204 53	

By referring to my Report of June 1, 1871, it will be seen that the net assets of the Society, at that time, was \$113,540 32. The sum of \$32,000 was paid on the mortgage.

In addition to the foregoing is the sum of \$450, paid in on account of the Life Membership Fund, for the reduction of the debt.

The monthly revenue is now:

From rents	595 00	
Membership.....	496 00	
		1,091 00
The monthly expenses are.....		995 00
Leaving a monthly balance of	\$	96 00
Contingent for purchase of books, extra repairs, etc.		

During the past year large expenditures (\$1,417 00) have been made in alteration and repairs, which it is expected will obviate further outlay for some time. The expenditure for books was also large (about \$4,000 00) but, if kept within the limit of our means, cannot be too large for the good of the Society.

It is a source of congratulation that the affairs of the Society are in so flourishing a condition, but to keep it in the front rank will require continued vigilance, energy and economy on part of the Trustees.

In conclusion I respectfully tender my thanks for the courtesy and kindness of the members during the past term and trust that this Institute may continue in the path it has chosen, to the credit of all concerned.

A. S. HALLIDIE, President.

John A. Hallidie